

Local

Claims against Kuwaiti parliament simply baseless: Speaker Ghanem

Kuwait participates in Asian Group meeting at IPU assembly



GENEVA: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem (center right) heads the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation during a meeting at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). —KUNA



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem chairs a coordination meeting by the Islamic group on the sidelines of the 138th IPU Assembly.

GENEVA: A Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation have easily refuted allegations and complaints by a current and former Kuwaiti MPs, said Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. The hearing committee at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was presented with a detailed and constitutionally-adequate demonstration by the parliamentary caucus members to refute such "lies," Ghanem, who arrived in Geneva earlier this week heading a delegation to respond to the claims, told reporters after the hearing late Friday.

"As a matter of fact, it was very easy, because the claims were simply lies contradicting reality... and we presented proof supported by documents and video in response to each claim," the Kuwaiti top lawmaker pointed out. "I deem it defamation," said Ghanem in reference to complaints filed by MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri and former MP Abdulhameed Dashti against the Kuwaiti parliament.

Along with Ghanem, MP Safaa Al-Hashem presented their counter case before the IPU committee, which included detailed and elaborated responses supported by audio-visual evidence,

documents and minutes.

Islamic Group session

Ghanem chaired yesterday a coordination meeting by the Islamic group on sidelines of the 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly. Emerging from the session, Ghanem said the State of Kuwait presided over the coordination meeting in response



Ghanem heads Islamic Group session

to the group members' request.

The conferees reached a consensus on merging proposals regarding the unscheduled topic on Jerusalem, presented by Kuwait, Palestine, Bahrain and Turkey on Jerusalem. The Europeans presented a proposal on violence against women, with the illicit intention to scuttle the proposal

on Jerusalem. "We have decided to merge the two proposals into one addressing hardships suffered by the women in the occupied Arab territories," he said. Kuwaiti MPs are currently partaking in a panel meeting to work out this proposal final wording, he added.

Asian Group meeting

Kuwait's Parliamentary Group took part yesterday in a coordination meeting by the Asian Group on sidelines of the 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly. The Asian Group discussed IPU's agendas, Dr Khalil Abul, member of the Kuwaiti parliamentary caucus, told reporters after the meeting.

"We have agreed to combine a resolution draft by the Kuwaiti group, which condemns Israeli occupation authorities' actions against the Palestinian people, with two similar drafts by Bahrain and Palestine, making them one draft submitted by three countries," Abul added. "We will review during the Arabic Group's coordinating meeting, slated for later, what has been agreed upon during the Asian Group meeting in order to coordinate items for the final

resolution draft," he said.

"We also agreed the resolution draft would be in favor of Palestine," the Kuwaiti MP noted, adding that the Palestinian Group would be given the power to draft the unified resolution and submit it to IPU's General Assembly for voting. The Asian Group meeting was attended also by MPs Ali Al-Deqbas and Hashem. Ghanem is currently leading Kuwait's Parliamentary Group to the IPU Assembly. Parliamentarians from over 137 countries will discuss parliamentary amendments to UN-led reforms on the rights and protection of migrants and refugees. During the five-day 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva, between March 23 and 28, more than 740 MPs will discuss a "new migration regime." "MPs will look in detail at their contribution to ensuring domestic enforcement of the two related Global Compacts expected to be adopted by the UN community later this year," said an IPU's statement.

The IPU Assembly will also run two workshops and a high-level interactive panel on the matter followed by discussions on universal health coverage. IPU Members



Member of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation Dr Khalil Abul.

will also adopt a resolution on sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development and another on engaging the private sector in implementing UN-adopted Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in relation to renewable energy. —KUNA

Humanitarian acts key to solve food crisis: Kuwait

NEW YORK: The key to solve the problems of hunger and lack of food security should go through acts based on morals and humanitarian efforts, said a senior Kuwaiti diplomat to the UNSC late Friday. During a UNSC session on hunger and conflicts, Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the UN Headquarters in New York, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that the early UN warning system is part of the international organization's efforts to tackle hunger caused by manmade conflicts and crises.

Carrying out to the letter the 17-item UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) will hopefully lead to the eradication of most of the world's problems by 2030, affirmed the Kuwaiti diplomat who noted that the very second goal of this ambitious plan was to end hunger, which is a feasible objective.

Ambassador Otaibi said that world countries should abide by rules and regulations that would hinder effects of conflicts, which are the main contributors to hunger around the globe. Reaching peace in any region of the world would gradually lower the effects of hunger by the passage of time, said the Ambassador, stressing that the international community should hasten efforts to implement all UN plans aimed at ending hunger. He went on saying that gathering provisions and capital for humanitarian action was another important aspect of attaining the UNSDGs. Despite the world's sincere efforts, hunger and lack of food security still remains as one of the world's most pressing issues, said Ambassador Otaibi who thanked the UN top Secretary General's Assistants and officials for



NEW YORK: Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi speaks at a UNSC session on hunger and conflicts. — KUNA

continuing to inform the global community on the current data concerning efforts against hunger. According to the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in their current 2018 reports, around 124 million people from 51 countries were affected by lack of food security in 2017, which is an increase by 11 million from the year before, said the Kuwaiti Ambassador.

He indicated that the data came a year after from the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres letter on February 12, 2007 in regard to the alarming increase of hunger due to conflict. Most world countries took the initiative to respond to the UN Secretary General's call for action including the State of Kuwait which donated \$15 million to Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, and the northeastern of Nigeria, Otaibi said. — KUNA



towards all sectors of the society. It is a well rooted tradition that has been carried out by NBK each year in its efforts to continuously have an active role in the Kuwaiti society.

NBK Family celebrates Mothers' Day at Dar Al-Shifaa Hospital

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait's (NBK) family paid a visit to Dar Al-Shifaa Hospital to celebrate Mothers' Day with mothers and their newborns. Farah Bastaki, NBK Public relations officer, said "Through this initiative we seek to deliver a message of appreciation to all women and mothers. This celebration is dedicated as well to working mothers. NBK team distributed flowers and chocolate to mothers and their newborns to show appreciation towards their sacrifices and efforts."

"NBK is always keen on being present with women to support and encourage their vital role in the society. NBK is in the forefront to support women empowerment through encouraging them to achieve higher ranks at work or through community shared initiatives."

NBK's visit to the mothers at Dar Al-Shifaa hospital reflects the bank's high sense of duty and responsibility



DUBLIN: Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney (center right) meets with Arab, and foreign ambassadors to UK and Ireland, including Dean of the Arab and foreign corps in the United Kingdom Ambassador of Kuwait Khaled Al-Duwaisan (center left). — KUNA

Ireland working hard to boost ties with Arab nations: Minister

DUBLIN: Dean of the Arab and foreign corps in the United Kingdom Ambassador of Kuwait Khaled Al-Duwaisan praised yesterday the deep-rooted Arab-Irish relations, and conveyed the Irish desire in boosting them on all levels. The senior diplomat's remarks came following the meeting that gathered him, Arab, and foreign ambassadors to UK and Ireland, with Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney at the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Dublin, Ireland yesterday. Ireland is considered as one of the supporting nations of Arab issues within the European Union (EU), especially its honorable stance regarding the Palestinian cause, the diplomat affirmed.

Duwaisan hailed Coveney's criticism of the latest Israeli cabinet decisions, as he called for halting the building of new settlements, and working to reach the two-state solution to end Arab-Israeli conflict. Ireland is among the few countries in the world hosting a full Palestinian diplomatic mission, he said.

Pat Breen, Irish Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, said meanwhile that his country is keen to enhance economic and commercial ties with Arab nations, and it is ready to boost its diplomatic existence in the Middle East and North Africa. The

Minister added that bolstering ties with the Arab World comes as a priority on his agenda, with a great possibility of increasing the amount of commercial exchange during the coming years.

The Irish Industrial Development Authority (IDA) is organizing a number of activities and visits for local businesspeople to a number of Arab countries to discuss means of economic cooperation, as well as boosting mutual investments, he noted. The minister will be visiting a number of Arab countries coming next September and October to work further on that matter.

Ireland is considered one of the smallest European countries size wise, yet its economy is increasing rapidly compared to other EU countries, he pointed out. Ireland has faced the global financial crisis firmly, and turned into a regional center to many international companies and European official bodies, he affirmed. Following Brexit, many companies will transfer their offices to Dublin in order to maintain their activities within the EU borders, he pointed out. Chair of the Arab-Irish Chamber Dr Niall Holohan said in a speech he gave during the event that the Chamber was founded in 1987, aiming to support and boost commercial relations between Ireland and Arab nations.

The Chamber is working to offer many services to exporting Irish companies, by providing them with information and communications with Arab nations, he said. Arab markets are considered of the most important for Irish exporters outside Europe and North America, Holohan noted.

He expressed dissatisfaction over the size of trade volume between Ireland and Arab countries, which reached EUR 2.1 billion, wishing to increase this figure in the future. The event was attended by some Arab ambassadors to Ireland, namely: Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. — KUNA